DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 426 684 HE 031 842

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TITLE	Freedom's Web: Student Activism in an Age of Cultural Diversity.
ISBN	ISBN-0-8018-5887-9
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	291p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218-4319; Web site: www.press.jhu.edu ($38 plus $4.00 postage & handling).
PUB TYPE	Books (010)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Activism; Case Studies; *College Students; Cultural Differences; *Cultural Pluralism; Educational History; Educational Trends; Ethnicity; Higher Education; Minority Groups; Racial Identification; Sexual Identity; Student Attitudes; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	Michigan State University; Mills College CA; Pennsylvania State University; Rutgers the State University NJ; University of California Los Angeles

ABSTRACT

This book examines student activism in the 1990s and finds its sources in the struggle over multiculturalism and issues of social justice and equality. It is argued that identity politics is a reaction to the cultural hegemony reinforced through longstanding monocultural norms of the academy. A case study methodology used such data as formal and informal interviews, open-ended surveys, document surveys and analysis, participant observation, key informants, and artifact interpretation. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to student activism and its origins. Chapter 2 reviews student activism from the 1960s (the civil rights, free speech, and peace movements) through the acquiescence of the 1970s and the South Africa divestment movement of the 1980s. The following five chapters present case studies of specific acts of student activism in the 1990s. These are: (1) the Chicano Studies Movement at the University of California, Los Angeles; (2) the Mills College Strike, a movement against making Mills, a women's college in California, a coeducational institution; (3) the struggle of American Indians at Michigan State; (4) gay liberation at Pennsylvania State University; and (5) African American resistance at Rutgers (New Jersey). The final chapter summarizes how the case studies demonstrate development of a student activist identity and the growing influence of multiculturalism. (Individual chapters contain references.) (DB)

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